

Patricia Puterbaugh

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I am writing to join the voices of so many North State residents in protesting the plan for the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Implementation. I have lived in the Foothills above Chico for 33 years, as does most of my family. We are very aware of water, as the Cohasset Ridge we live on is very dry. We have lived through 1 severe drought and 2 small droughts. There WILL BE MORE droughts and the North State cannot allocate water elsewhere to the detriment of our citizens, farmers and our flora and fauna.

We are aware that it would be extremely important to join with Regional interests to institute a water management plan. However, these interests must include the citizens and those that speak for the environment and small farms. Big water, big agriculture and industry cannot determine the outcome. The beneficiaries HAVE to be the public and the public good.

There was inadequate involvement by the public and interested parties in the initial development of the grant and plan. NCWA and its partners do not represent the public. There has not been enough studies or time to determine whether our aquifer is in a "steady state" and the Management Plan and grant fail to give us an accurate assessment of the existing conditions of the aquifer. We need extensive, long-term scientific monitoring of the hydrologic system. We also need land-use planning before any draw down to assure the areas needed to recharge the aquifer will be protected from development!

Please keep me posted on this ill-advised plan. Patricia Puterbaugh RN